

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/631,324

Applicant(s)

KRAFT, FRANK MICHAEL

Examiner

Cheryl Lewis

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the applicant's communication filed on August 1, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date March 13, 2006.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/28/06; 7/26/05; 5/22/05; 4/5/05; 12/21/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 12/5/03
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-13 are allowed.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

2. The information disclosure statements filed on February 28, 2006; July 26, 2005; May 20, 2005; April 8, 2005; August 26, 2004; and December 15, 2003, complies with the provisions of MPEP § 609. They have been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Stephen Schaefer on March 13, 2006.

4. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: The examiner has amended drawing figures 2, 3, and 4 to illustrate that a box has been drawn around the drawing elements of figures 2 and 3. The illustration of the box drawn around figures 2 and 3 indicates that the box is needed to show these individual figure elements as one entity and not a partial view of a figure

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entity (37 CFR 1.84(h)). Also, the amendment to figure 4 illustrates a written detailed description of figure elements 111, 112, and 120. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The examiner kindly reminds the applicant that any replacement drawing sheets filed must be labeled as "Replacement Sheet", refer to 37 CFR 1.121.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The closest prior art, Aditham (Pat. No. 6,378,001) teaches "Programs 12-1 to 12-3 communicate with session object 18 by means of "messages." Each program sends information to the session object by "posting", or sending, a message to the session object. A program 12-1 begins a collaboration session by joining the session represented by the session object 18. Joining is performed by sending a join message to the session object 18. In order to receive messages from the session object 18, a program joining a session registers one or more "interests" with the session object 18 when joining the session. The interests are registered by sending further messages from the program to the session object 18. An interest is a set of message types used to indicate messages which the joining program wants to receive." (column 4, lines 63-67, column 5, lines 1-9). Further, Aditham teaches "The collaboration manager 10 may have one or more sessions running concurrently as indicated by the existence of one or more session objects. Programs 12-1 to 12-3 may collaborate in one or more of a

plurality of currently running sessions. Each session object 18 thus includes registered interests from the member programs. A session represented by session object 18 may be designated as either "public" or "private." A public session 18 may be created by a user by manipulating a "session creation button" displayed by, for example, program 12-1 on a display (not shown) associated with computer 100-1. Selection of the session creation button causes program 12-1 to generate a send a message to the manager 10, which creates a session object 18 by conventional means." (column 5, lines 14-29).

The closest prior art Monchilovich et al. (Pat. No. 6,952,717) teaches "FIG. 5 illustrates a functional block diagram of exemplary components of the message and document exchange method and system 500. The message and document exchange system 500 enables multiple clients 515a-515c to exchange messages and documents by connecting to the ASP Model 505 via the Internet 510. Clients 515a-515c can initiate projects 520 using the document and message exchange system 500 described in more detail in connection with FIG. 7. Clients 515a-515c can also mine data for their entire enterprise and specific industry 525." (column 7, lines 8-17). Further, Monchilovich teaches "FIG. 8 illustrates a computer-implemented process for addressing documents and messages to be exchanged between collaborators on a project. FIG. 8 provides an overview for the addressing process 740, and begins with decision step 810. In decision step 810, the local presence or absence of a GUID returned from the GIS 415a or 415b for the addressee is determined by comparing locally stored data fields and GUIDs with the returned data fields and GUIDs." (column 8, lines 49-55).

However, Aditham nor Monchilovich teach or fairly suggest the following:

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Claim 1 recites: 'processing said retrieved sub-system state information to generate, and store in a second storage location, collaboration state information on collaboration states and collaboration state transitions of said process, said collaboration states being defined by a sub-system state for each software sub-system of each participant system and a communication status of each message exchangeable between said participant systems, said collaboration state transitions being determined based on said sub-system state transitions' and 'generating a result data object containing information on every incompletely specified terminal collaboration state found' similarly recited in independent claims 8, 12, and 13.

The remaining claims 2-7 and 9-11, comprise dependent claims, thus these claims are patently distinct over the art of record for at least the above reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

NAME OF CONTACT

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

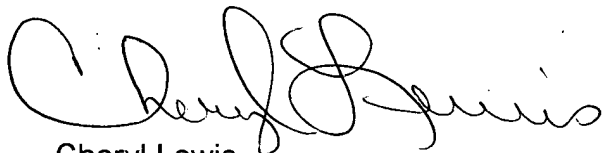
(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

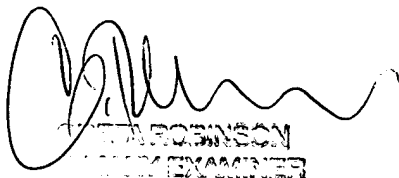
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner
March 13, 2006



J. ROBINSON
PATENT EXAMINER

~~Fig. 2~~

FIG. 2

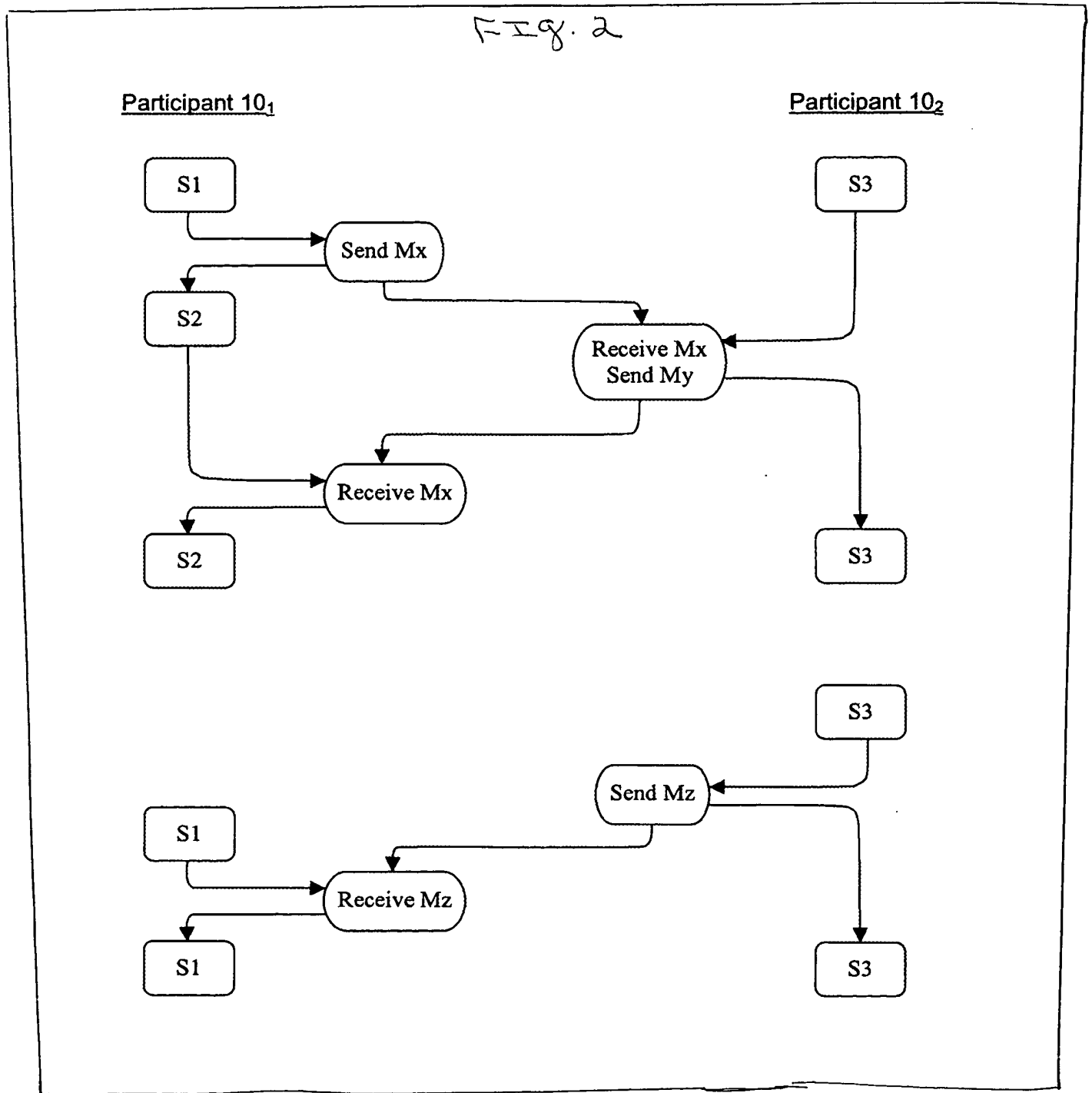


Fig. 3

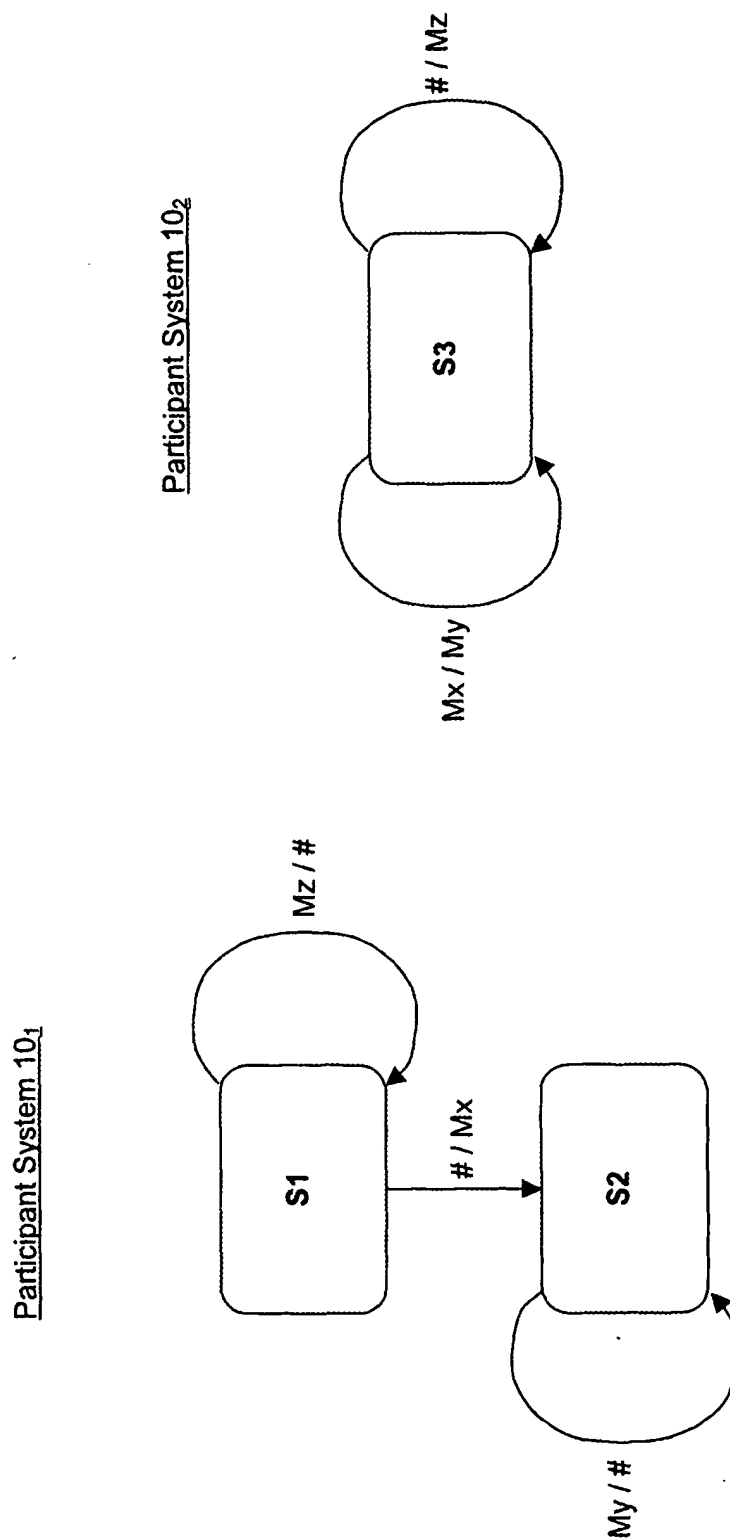


Fig. 4

